

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 107414
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY: EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN:EH
APPROVED BY: EA:RHOLBROOKE
EA:RBOAKLEY
D/HA:MSCHNEIDER
H:ASWIFT
S/S:SSTEINER

-----130758Z 093201 /20

O 130035Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 107414

EXDIS, FOR CHARGE FROM HOLBROOKE

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 107414 VICE 147414)

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: TRINIDAD HERRERA CASE

REF: MANILA 7240

1. WE ARE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF AND WISH TO COMMEND EMBASSYS
THOROUGH AND RAPID REPORTING ON TRINIDAD HERRERA CASE. CASE
CONTINUES TO BE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST ON HILL AND ELSE-
WHERE, WITH OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR FUTURE OF OUR RELA-
TIONS WITH GOP.

2. WE ARE INTERESTED IN SEEING THAT GOP INVESTIGATION
CONTINUES EXPEDITIOUSLY AND PRODUCES REALISTIC RESULT

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RATHER THAN OBVIOUS WHITEWASH AND HAS POSITIVE IMPACT ON
BROADER ISSUE OF REPORTED PATTERN OF TORTURE AT LOWER
LEVELS. WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE FURTHER ACTION IF IT WOULD
BE USEFUL TO ACHIEVE THAT END. BASED ON INFORMATION REFTEL,
BEST TACTIC MAY BE TO LET GOP CONTINUE INVESTIGATION WITH-
OUT DOING MORE ON OUR PART THAN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS
CLOSELY AND CONTINUING MAKE KNOWN OUR CLOSE INTEREST AND

CONCERN. IF GOP EFFORT APPEARS TO WAVER OR CLEARLY
BEGINS GOING OFF TRACK, YOU SHOULD SEEK ANOTHER APPOINT-
MENT WITH MARCOS ON INSTRUCTIONS RECALLING HIS ORDERS

TO GENERAL VER IN YOUR PRESENCE ABOUT PUNISHMENT OF
TORTURERS AND ANY COVERUP AND OF EFFECT WITHIN US OF ANY
FINAL RESULT WHICH APPEARS TO SIDESTEP THE PRESIDENT'S
PROMISE OF A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION AND APPROPRIATE
FOLLOW UP ACTION. CREDIBILITY OF GOP FINDINGS AND
FOLLOW-ON ACTIONS AS SEEN BY CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC
WILL BE IMPORTANT FACTOR IN OUR ABILITY WORK CLOSELY WITH
GOP ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN FUTURE.

3. IN ORDER TO ASSIST YOUR EFFORTS WE HAVE BEEN KEEPING
AMBASSADOR ROMULDEZ INFORMED OF SITUATION, INCLUDING
REPORT OF EMBOFFS INTERVIEW WITH MRS. HERRERA, AND
SUGGESTING THAT HE CONVEY TO MANILA HIS OWN APPRAISAL OF
SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES IF INVESTIGATION NOT PURSUED.

4. I WOULD WELCOME YOUR THOUGHTS ON OUR PRESENT STANCE
AND ON CONTENT, TIMING AND NUANCES OF FURTHER ACTIONS WE
MIGHT TAKE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS WELFARE, INVESTIGATIONS, PERSONNEL AWARDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE107414
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/PHL:DPSULLIVAN:EH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770168-1116
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770561/aaaacaeq.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7eb9a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 MANILA 7240
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2534367
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRINIDAD HERRERA CASE
TAGS: SHUM, RP, (HERRERA, TRINIDAD)
To: MANILA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7eb9a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009